



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

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Nine Rhode Island Drug Use Prevention Coalitions Receive Grants from the White House Office on Drug Control Policy

Cranston, RI, September, 2011 - Drug use prevention coalitions in nine Rhode Island communities received grants from the White House Office on Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for their Drug-free Community Support Programs (DFC). These grants provide community coalitions with needed support to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

The BAY Team in Barrington, the Chariho Tri-town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, Middletown's Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, the Narragansett Prevention Partnership, North Kingstown Working Together for Wellness, Providence's Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council, the Smithfield Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition are currently-funded coalitions, each receiving between \$100,000 and \$125,000 (for a total of \$972,447) to continue their work.

The Tiverton Prevention Coalition is one of 87 first-time grant recipients selected from 452 applicants through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. To qualify for matching grants, all awardees must have at least a six-month history of working together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from 12 specific sectors of the community, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in the national evaluation of the DFC program. Tiverton will receive \$100,000 in DFC grant funds to involve and engage their local community to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.

"Efforts to keep our youth drug free are critical to healthy and safe communities in Rhode Island", says Craig Stenning, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. "The Drug Free Communities program recognizes the great potential of these grant recipients to help save lives. This new funding will allow these coalitions to mobilize and organize their communities to prevent and reduce youth substance use."

ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske said, "Data shows that community efforts to reduce youth substance use through the DFC program are effective. I commend coalitions like those in Rhode Island who work tirelessly to prevent and reduce youth drug use across the nation."

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“Action at the community level and kitchen tables drives rates of substance abuse down,” said the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D. “SAMHSA is pleased to join the Office of National Drug Control Policy in supporting coalitions that are bringing citizens together to create healthy and drug-free environments for children.”

About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and support for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the department’s mission includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

About the Drug Free Communities Program

The Drug Free Communities program is directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The DFC program provides grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts. Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement, the media, and others working together at the local level.

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was re-authorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded nearly 2,000 Drug Free Communities grants to local communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. More information about the Drug-Free Communities Program is available at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc.

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